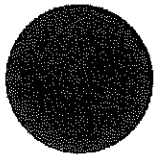


Name: _____

Date: _____

The Lunar Cycle

As the moon orbits around the Earth we see different amounts of light reflecting off the moon from the sun. Research the phases of the moon. Write a short description of each phase.



new moon - _____



waxing crescent - _____



first quarter - _____



waxing gibbous - _____

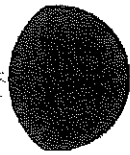
full moon - _____



waning gibbous - _____



last quarter - _____



waning crescent - _____

Native Americans and Early Europeans gave full moons different names. Show students the poster "Full Moons." You can have older students work in groups to see if they can come up with the reasons why the moons were named what they were. Then you can show them the actual list. Groups could also work to come up with other full moon names that they think would be appropriate for each month and give their reasoning. Another idea is to have students draw a creative rendition of one of the moons and label.

Full Moons

A full moon occurs when the side of the moon facing the earth is fully lit by the sun. This occurs every 29.5 days in the lunar cycle. Native Americans gave full moons names each month. Here is a list of common names given to full moons by month.

January - Wolf Moon

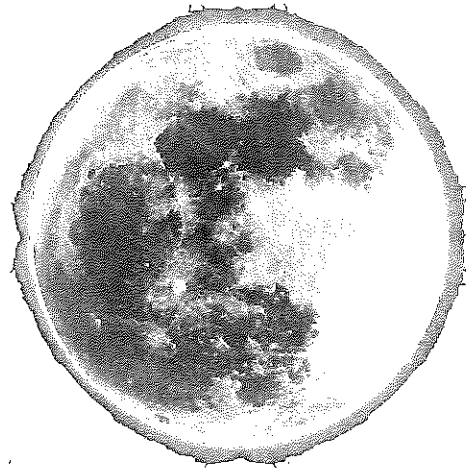
February - Snow Moon

March - Worm Moon

April - Pink Moon

May - Flower Moon

June - Strawberry Moon



July - Buck Moon

August - Sturgeon Moon

September - Harvest Moon

October - Hunter's Moon

November - Beaver Moon

December - Cold Moon

Full Moons

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January - Wolf Moon

- packs of wolves howl at moon because of lack of food

February - Snow Moon

- snowiest month of the year

March - Worm Moon

- earth warms and the worms come out

April - Pink Moon

- pink wildflowers bloom

May - Flower Moon

- many plants are blooming

June - Strawberry Moon

- strawberry picking season

July - Buck Moon

- buck's antlers are fully grown

August - Sturgeon Moon

- sturgeon fish catching is at its best

September - Harvest Moon

- time to harvest corn

October - Hunter's Moon

- best time of year for hunting

November - Beaver Moon

- time to hunt beavers for fur for winter coats

December - Cold Moon

- the cold weather starts again